

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated July 5, 2005. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 are pending in this application with claims 1, 4 and 7 canceled and new claim 8 added by the present Amendment. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 2-3, 5 and 6 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 are presented for consideration.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Keeney (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,966). The cancellation of claims 1, 4 and 7 renders this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 2-3, 5 and 6 contained allowable subject matter, but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended claims 2, 5 and 6 to place these claims in independent form. Claim 3 depends from allowable claim 2. Consequently, claim 3 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-3, 5 and 6.

New Claim

New claim 8 has been added to claim additional features of the present invention. New claim 8 depends from allowable claim 5. Therefore, Applicants request consideration and allowance of new claim 8.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendments and remarks have overcome the objections and rejection set forth in the Office Action dated July 5, 2005. Specifically, Applicants' cancellation of claims 1, 4 and 7 renders moot the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants' amendment of claims 2, 5 and 6, to place these claims in independent form, overcomes the objection to claims 2-3, 5 and 6. Applicants' remarks have distinguished new claim 8 from the cited prior art. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 100353-00172.

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX PLLC



Rustan J. Hill
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,351

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

RJH/elz

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time

TECH/374615.1